

Hassaniya Arabic transcript:

إمرأة 1: تقاليدنا لولا، ياك أفهمتي ذا؟ و خيامنا مبنيات سود و زينات و حاصرة أعلننا ابلنا الياسرة الزينة و غنمنا و نعاجنا، أسمعتي؟ و نحلوا و نشربوا و نغزلوا و نبرموا و ننزوا فلجتنا و نبوا خيامنا زينات، أسمعتي؟ و لحقنا هون الا تقاليدنا، ياك أفهمتي ذا؟ و نركبوا أعلى ابلنا ماهم وتات اصا الا اعلى جمال و نرفدوا عليهم خيامنا و دبشنا، أسمعتي؟ و نتموا رحيل رحيل الي الليل و ننزلوا و نبوا خيامنا و تحصر أعلننا ابلنا و غنمنا و ن... آآ... ون...
إمرأة 2: و البركة نازلة كانت و كلشي...

إمرأة 1: و نحطبوا حطبنا و نقدوا نارنا ماهو اصا قاز و لاهو شي ثاني، اياك سمعتي ذا؟ و نقدوا نارنا و نطيبوا عليها خبزنا و نطيبوا عليها لحمنا و نذبحوا الذبايح و ننحروا النحاير الزينات، سمعتي؟ و هذا هو و الصحراء هذه هي باش عايشة الصحراء و باش لحقت ذاك القد، سمعتي؟ هذه الصحراء، تقالدها ذي هي، تعرف الا الا شوفي، الا الرحيل و البل و لغنم و ترفد اعلى ابلها و تم راحلة الي الليل و ينزلوا و يعدلوا عشايم باليل و يضحكوا و يلعبوا و كل شي زين عندهم، ياك فهمتي ذا؟ و بينوا خيامهم الزينات الصالحات ببيلهم و ازواجيل الزينين و لمساييم الزينات و لمشقبن و لوسايد و الفرشة و ل آآ هذا و آآ هذا... و لفراو، سمعتي؟ و لقطايف الزينات و الزرابية و لعكاكين، سمعتي؟ هذا هو تقاليد الصحراء، سمعتي؟ و بينوا بنياتهم و منين نسيبي نقبط بنيتي و نبنيها الهيه في خليج من واد و يقدرنا عندنا النار و يعدلوا اتاي و يتعشاوا و هذا هو تقاليد أهل الصحراء، ماهم وتات و لاهم شي، الا البل و لغنم، اياك سمعتي ذا؟

English translation:

Woman 1: Our earlier customs, do you understand this? Our beautiful, black tents would be erected and our numerous and beautiful camels would be surrounding it, and the same with our goats and sheep, do you understand? And we milk [the animals] and we drink it [the milk], and we spin wool to make *el-feldja*¹ that we would use to build our beautiful tents, do you understand? And it is our customs that made us reach this point in life, do you understand this? We ride our camels, which are not like the cars these days. We only ride camels; we use them to carry our tents, and we use them to carry our belongings, do you understand? We would wander and wander until nightfall and we would settle down somewhere and build our tent... and our camels and goats would gather around the tent and... aaa... we... aaa... we...

Woman 2: And everything was blessed...

Woman 1: And we bring firewood and make our fire, which is not like using gas or something else, do you understand this? We make our fire to cook our bread over and to cook meat on. We also would slaughter a goat or a camel, do you understand? And this is the Sahara... aaa... this is how the Sahara lived and how it reached this point, do you understand? This is the [Western] Sahara... aaa... and these are the traditions of the [Western] Sahara. Look, all it... aaa... all it knows is wandering around the desert, camels and goats and its people carry their belongings on camels and they would go wandering all day long until nightfall. Then they settle down and make their dinner at night, and they laugh and play games. In their lives, everything is beautiful, do you understand this? And they build the beautiful tents with their greatest he-camels and

¹ *El-feldja*: Plural of *fleedj*, a large cloth made of smaller cloths of woven wool. It takes many of them to make *el-khaima*.

*lemsaim*² and *emshegib*³ and... aaa... pillows and... aaa... carpets and... aaa... this...
aaa... this, what is it called... mats, do you understand? And the most beautiful rugs and
*leaakakin*⁴, do you understand? These are the traditions of the people of Western Sahara,
do you understand? And they build their tents... And if my in-laws come, I would take
one of my tents and build it there in the valley and... aaa... We make fire there [in the
valley] and prepare tea and eat dinner. And these are the traditions of the [Western]
Sahara; they don't... aaa... don't have cars or anything but instead they have camels and
goats. Do you understand this?

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in

² *Lemsaim*: Decorations worn by camels.

³ *Emshegib*: A saddle for a camel.

⁴ *Leaakakin*: Plural of 'ekak, which is a container used to store camel fat which has been taken from the camel's hump and melted.

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